

478th CA Battalion Targets Oral Health

By Spc. Jan Critchfield

122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq- The 478th Civil Affairs Battalion, a reserve unit from Miami, Fla., provided oral hygiene products and administered a block of instruction on brushing technique May 10 to the 25 students of Al-Uruba kindergarten in Baghdad's Karkh district.

While performing routine missions in Karkh, 478th Sgt. Jose Villafana noticed that some of the local children clearly did not have access to even the most basic oral care.

Feeling that something could be done, Villafana coordinated for supplies to be sent from the States and made contact with a local school headmistress, who was very inter-

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By Spc. Jan Critchfield, 122nd MPAD

Al-Uruba kindergarten students in Baghdad's Karkh district explore and show off new toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste given to them by the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion, a Florida Army Reserve Unit attached to the 1st Cavalry Division.

Guam's 411th Engineers Get the Job Done

By Pfc. Al Barrus

122nd MPAD

Every unit runs into different obstacles when trying to complete their mission when they deploy to Iraq. No matter how much they train before they leave, they can't be prepared for everything.

An Army Reserve unit from Guam, C Company, 411th Engineer Battalion, attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, has encountered a number of pickles that stand in the way of getting its job done, but it drives on. Its mission is to construct buildings on Camp Victory North.

"Right now our platoon is working on a finance center, and we are supposed to have it done in eleven days," Site Manager Staff Sgt. Lawrence

Terlaje said, standing in front of the bare frame of a future building. Throughout the hollow building stood Soldier-carpenters hard at work, driving

nails into the wood planks and sawing two by fours in the mid-morning sun.

The remaining Soldiers of the battalion were absent, but not completely. They are conducting other tasks aside from the construction mission.

The rest of the Soldiers are on 'Red-Cycle,' a detail-oriented tasking.

"They keep us busy with checkpoint operations, and a lot of the other company and battalion details," Terlaje said.

With carpenters and electricians rotating through checkpoint duty and others sleeping



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

Sgt. Barcelene Gose, [right] electrician, and Sgt. Jeremiah Diaz, plumber, C Co., 411th Engineer Battalion, perform carpentry duties on a future finance center near the Victory North Army Post Office.

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Camaraderie Helps Engineers Face Challenges

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after a night shift, the number left to get down to business tends to be the size of a squad and sometimes smaller.

But the lack of manpower doesn't bring the Soldiers

down. They continue to work and meet deadlines with what they have.

"We are going to continue on and drive on with as many people as we can in a day," Terlaje said. "Thinking back to

what we did in the reserves, we would spend the whole day working; going for 12 or 14 hours with fog lights on at night. But we would do that one weekend a month; we can't work that hard everyday out here."

Aside from the lack of sufficient manpower to construct military buildings, the unit is running into new types of materials.

"A carpenter knows when he looks at a two by four," Terlaje said. "The U.S. standard is actually an inch and a half by three and a half. When we come to a place like this, we see three different sizes."

Another problem with the lumber is the affect the dry climate of Iraq has on it.

"With the weather out here, it takes a beating," he said. "One day you will see piece of wood and think 'Why is that thing bending?' When we get it from the yard it's compressed and bundled down. As soon as we take it out of its packing, the dry air is going to start to affect it, so we need to nail it down fast."

The dry heat on the wood isn't the only equipment difficulty the construction Soldiers

face in coming to a different part of the planet. The electrical differences pay their toll of frustration as well.

"We are set up for 220 volts, but the hertz is different," the squad leader said. "And that will destroy equipment. What we are trying to do with our [Field Ordering Officer] money is see what we can buy that is out here in the [local] shops and already set up for the same hertz."

Though the challenges are numerous, that is why Terlaje and his fellow troops joined the Army.

"I like the challenges of this job," he said. "But all those other things don't compare to being away from home. I mean one whole year without the family around; that's the real challenge."

But there is no other place than he would like to be than here with his platoon.

"I have always had to the opportunity to go to a different unit or a different branch, but you stick to your unit, and it becomes like a family," he said. "If there's one place I would like to be, if away from home, it's here with my unit, my second family."



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

Sgt. Jeremiah Diaz, a plumber in C Co., 411th Engineer Battalion, performs carpentry duties on the new finance building at Camp Victory North.

Arabic Words of the Day

weather	jaw
temperature	Ha-ra-reh
hot	Har
rain	mu-Tar

Friday

High: 92
Low: 64



Saturday

High: 93
Low: 70



Sunday

High: 88
Low: 68



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office

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122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Cmdr: Maj. John Fuhrman
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DeWitt Class of 2004 Celebrates Early Graduation of Classmate

► From *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.- When she heard the faint strains of "Pomp and Circumstance," JoAnn Adams bustled around her son, smoothed his navy gown and adjusted the mortar board atop his head.

As members of DeWitt's Class of 2004 marched into his fourth-floor hospital room at Arkansas Children's Hospital on Tuesday, Bradley Adams tilted his head up slightly and smiled at his classmates and friends, dressed in full graduation garb.

It's not the way JoAnn Adams pictured her son's high school graduation, but she grinned nonetheless.

On April 30, 17-year-old Bradley Adams was in a car accident where he lost control,

hit a tree and was ejected from his truck. He fractured his spine, arm, pelvis and rib. His bladder ruptured and his spleen was lacerated.

Emergency workers first rushed him to DeWitt's hospital, then Stuttgart's. He made it to Children's Hospital in Little Rock, where he's been recovering since.

Melissa Inman, who has taught Adams since sixth grade and has known him "since birth," said the senior class couldn't imagine a commencement without Adams.

"The class decided the thing they were most upset about was that Bradley couldn't be here," she said. "So we decided to bring graduation to him."

The majority of the class wished to attend Adams' commencement, but not all could fit



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Since DeWitt senior Bradley Adams was unable to participate in his high school graduation ceremony, fellow classmates brought the celebration to him at Children's Hospital in Little Rock, Ark.

in his hospital room. His family chose 20 of his friends to attend.

Although he was visibly weakened and had difficulty speaking, Adams displayed his trademark sense of humor.

With nearly 20 classmates and friends gathered around his

bed, Adams opened the navy diploma his mother handed to him.

"Hey," he said with a wry grin. "How come this is just a certificate of attendance?"

Classmates filed past Adams' bed, to hug and congratulate the new graduate.

Civil Affairs Soldiers Reach Out to Younger Generation of Iraqis

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ested in the project.

"We provided them with toothbrushes and toothpaste, and a program that we're going to implement in the school where they brush their teeth after school with the teacher's help to try and start them on the right hygiene now," said Capt. Matt Pedersen, leader of Team A of the 478th CA.

"I am happy and the kids are happy," said Nadira Tawfilq, headmistress of Al-Uruba kindergarten and candidate for the Women's League of Iraq. "First, [The Coalition] is helping us and providing us with many things. Second, you are also protecting us right now."

"Anything [the Coalition] can supply me or instruct to

help the kids would be good," she added. "We consider [the Coalition] our friends because you are protecting this area and since the fall of Saddam you have been working to make Iraq better."

The toothbrushes and toothpaste will be stored at the school, and after snack time the teachers will

help the students brush their teeth, similar to a program at the kindergarten that one of Pedersen's children attends in Orlando, Florida.

"I have a kindergarten-age child [that does] the exact same thing," Pedersen said.

Stating the importance of

"We're laying down a good, friendly foundation with these children [that] will hopefully stay with them for the rest of their lives."

-CPT Matt Pedersen, team leader, Team A, 478th CA

the project, Pedersen said, "It's building a foundation of trust; it's establishing credibility between the Coalition and the Iraqi people. Instead of bearing empty promises, we

show up, we offer them something, and we follow through with it.

"Plus, it's reaching out to the younger generation of chil-

dren, children who weren't exposed to the Saddam media machine, which was very anti-American," Pedersen added. "We're laying down a good, friendly foundation with these children [that] will hopefully stay with them for the rest of their lives."

With only a small fraction of children attending schools, the 478th CA is only skimming the top of a very deep project.

"The children that don't go to school will be a harder project for us," Pedersen said. "We're going to try and help the school children first, and then as we identify areas where we can find concentrations of children, we'll do similar programs there. Our whole function here is simply to help people."

Today in History May 14

► From historychannel.com

1796 Edward Jenner, an English doctor, administers the world's first vaccination as a preventative treatment for smallpox

1804 Meriwether Lewis and William Clark leaves St. Louis, Mo. on a mission to explore the Northwest from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean

1904 The first Olympic Games to be held in the United States opens in St. Louis, Mo.

1944 Filmmaker George Lucas is born

1948 State of Israel proclaimed, establishing the first Jewish state in 2,000 years

1955 The Warsaw Pact is formed

1973 Skylab, America's first space station, is successfully launched into an orbit around the earth

1987 Actress Rita Hayworth dies of Alzheimer's disease at age 68

Four-Year Contract Extension for Penn State's Joe Paterno

Joe Paterno

Head Football Coach,
Penn State University



► From Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa.—Despite three losing seasons in the last four years, Joe Paterno got a four-year contract extension from Penn State on Thursday that will take him past his 80th birthday.

Penn State went 3-9 last season, the worst record in Paterno's 39 seasons as head coach of the Nittany Lions. It was just the fourth losing season since Paterno joined the coaching staff in 1950.

Penn State didn't win a road game for the first time since the 1936 season, and finished below .500 in the Big Ten (1-7) for the first time since joining the conference for the 1993 season.

► Just missed...



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Scott Boone, 11, of Little Rock just misses the putt while competing in the Mutual of Omaha Drive, Chip & Putt Contest on Wednesday at the First Tee of Arkansas. Finalists qualified for the Regional Championship and the chance to advance to the 2004 National Championship in October.

Scores MLB



AMERICAN LEAGUE

Detroit 3
Oakland 1

New York 7
Anaheim 4

Minnesota 1
Seattle 0

Baltimore 1
Chicago 0

Doubleheader:
Chicago 6
Baltimore 5

Tampa Bay 6
Texas 3

Toronto 12
Boston 6

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Milwaukee 7
Montreal 4

Atlanta 6
St. Louis 5

Colorado 7
Pittsburgh 5

Doubleheader:
Pittsburgh 11
Colorado 2

Chicago 7
Los Angeles 3

Philadelphia 4
San Francisco 3

Florida 3
Houston 2

TV GUIDE



	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
18:00	Ozzie & Drix/ As Told By Ginger	Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman	Around the Horn/ Pardon the Interruption	The X-Files
19:00	Jeopardy/ Headline News	Access Hollywood 19:30	SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants
20:00	ESPNNews/ Headline News	Vietnam	ESPNNews/ Baseball Tonight 20:20	The Simpsons/ The Cosby Show
21:00	Survivor: All- Stars	Moonstruck 21:45	NHL Playoffs Conf. Finals Gm 3: San Jose Sharks @ Calgary Flames	The Dead Zone
22:00	The Apprentice			Boston Public



NHL

CONFERENCE FINALS
(Best of 7 series)
Eastern Conference

Tampa Bay 4
Philadelphia 1
(Tampa Bay leads series 2-1)



NBA

CONFERENCE
SEMIFINALS

(Best of 7 series)
Western Conference

Los Angeles 74
San Antonio 73
(Los Angeles leads series 3-2)